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July 29, 1998

For Immediate Release:

EIU FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION REACH NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT

CHARLESTON -- Representatives of the Eastern Illinois University chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois and the university administration have agreed on 1998-99 salary increases for faculty and academic support professionals.

The coming school year marks the last year of a three-year contract between the two sides, who had only to determine cost-of-living percentages and discuss this year's appropriations.

"This agreement recognizes the need for merit adjustments and sets aside a certain pool of money to recognize the meritorious performance of select faculty of the university," said Teshome Abebe, Eastern's vice president for academic affairs.

The two sides announced that the agreement calls for a basic increase of 2.7 percent. In addition, a substantial salary adjustment pool addresses minima and equity adjustments, promotional and achievement award increases for tenure-line faculty, and

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merit and performance-based increases for annually contracted faculty and ASPs.

Laurent Gosselin, UPI chapter president, said, "This package moves us significantly closer to our long-term goals. I am happy to acknowledge the cooperation engendered by interest-based negotiation that addressed the interests of all members of the university community."

The salary package ensures that other university planning priorities are supported; reallocation will not be necessary.

"This package reflects the improved budget allocated to the university by the General Assembly. The legislature is recognizing the need of the university to move closer to its benchmark institutions," said Jeanne Simpson, assistant vice president for academic affairs and university contract administrator/chief negotiator for the administration.

Eastern's administration and UPI negotiate two separate units of employees -- Unit A, which comprises tenured and tenure-track faculty -- and Unit B, which includes annually contracted teaching faculty and academic support professionals. EIU employees represented by UPI total more than 600.